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Sixty-seventh session
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Agenda item 18 (c)
Macroeconomic policy questions: external debt sustainability and development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Stefano Stefanile (Italy), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.28

External debt sustainability and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 58/203 of 23 December 2003, 59/223 of 22 December 2004, 60/187 of 22 December 2005, 61/188 of 20 December 2006, 62/186 of 19 December 2007, 63/206 of 19 December 2008, 64/191 of 21 December 2009, 65/144 of 20 December 2010, and 66/189 of 22 December 2011,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] adopted on 8 September 2000, and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[2]

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3]

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development and its outcome document[4] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[5]

Recalling also the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[6]

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[1] Resolution 55/2.
[2] Resolution 65/1.
[3] Resolution 60/1.
[4] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[5] Resolution 63/239, annex.
[6] Resolution 63/303, annex.

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Recalling further the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the Istanbul Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[7]

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[8]

Recalling also its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further its resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Taking note with appreciation of the special event of the Second Committee held on the theme "Sovereign debt crises and restructurings: lessons learned and proposals for debt resolution mechanisms",[9]

Emphasizing that debt sustainability is essential for underpinning growth, underlining the importance of debt sustainability and effective debt management to the efforts to achieve national and international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and acknowledging that debt crises tend to be costly and disruptive, including for employment and productive investment, and tend to be followed by cuts in public spending, including on health and education, affecting in particular the poor and vulnerable,

Reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own development, and that the role of national policies and development strategies, including in the area of debt management, cannot be overemphasized for the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts, including to achieve development goals and to maintain debt sustainability, should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Reaffirming also that multilateral institutions, including entities within the United Nations system and other relevant organizations, should continue to play an important role, given their respective mandates, in assisting countries in achieving and maintaining debt sustainability,

Reiterating that debt sustainability depends on a confluence of many factors at the international and national levels, and emphasizing that country-specific circumstances and the impact of external shocks, such as those derived from the world financial and economic crisis, should continue to be taken into account in debt sustainability analyses,

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[7] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chaps. I and II.

[8] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[9] The themes of the special event of the Second Committee were as follows: (a) Are there missing links in the international financial architecture for debt restructuring?; (b) Lessons from past debt crises; and (c) Features of a possible debt resolution mechanism.

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, cognizant that the global economy remains in a challenging phase with significant downside risks, including turbulence in global financial and commodity markets and widespread fiscal strains, which threaten the global economic recovery, stressing the need to continue to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and the need for continuing efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system, and recognizing that any deepening of ongoing adverse impacts of the world financial and economic crisis threatens debt sustainability in developing countries,

Recognizing the importance of efforts and cooperation undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in response to the challenges posed by the world financial and economic crisis, and acknowledging that the impacts of the crisis on development continue, entail the possibility of undermining the progress made towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and threaten debt sustainability in many countries, especially developing countries, through, inter alia, the consequences on the real economy and government revenue and the need to increase borrowing to mitigate the negative impacts of the crisis,

Recognizing also the important role, on a case-by-case basis, of debt relief, including debt cancellation, as appropriate, and debt restructuring, as debt crisis prevention and management tools for mitigating the impact of the world financial and economic crisis on developing countries,

Recognizing further the role of private capital flows in mobilizing financing for development, stressing the challenges posed by excessive short-term capital inflows to many developing countries, including to their debt sustainability, and encouraging further review of the benefits, disadvantages and limitations of macroprudential measures available to mitigate the impact of volatile capital flows, including, as appropriate, temporary, transparent and targeted capital controls or management of capital flows in accordance with the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund,

Expressing concern that a number of low- and middle-income countries face challenges in servicing their debt,

Expressing deep concern that, in spite of international efforts, many least developed countries struggle with high debt burdens and are classified, in accordance with the framework for debt sustainability assessments, as being in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress,

Noting with appreciation that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and bilateral donors have provided substantial debt relief to thirty-four countries that have reached the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which has provided needed debt relief and enabled them to reallocate resources to investments in social services, while expressing concern that some post-completion point countries remain classified as being at high risk of debt distress and need to avoid rebuilding unsustainable debt burdens,

Convinced that enhanced market access for goods and services of export interest to developing countries contributes significantly to debt sustainability in those countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[10]

2. *Emphasizes* the special importance of a timely, effective, comprehensive and durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries to promote their economic growth and development;

3. *Stresses* the importance of responsible lending and borrowing, emphasizes that creditors and debtors must share responsibility for preventing unsustainable debt situations, and encourages Member States, the Bretton Woods institutions, the regional development banks and other relevant multilateral financial institutions and stakeholders to continue the ongoing discussions on this issue, inter alia, within the framework of the initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to promote responsible sovereign lending and borrowing;

4. *Recognizes* the role played by the Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, jointly developed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to guide borrowing and lending decisions, takes note of the recent review of the framework and encourages the continued periodic review of the framework in an open and transparent manner with the full engagement of borrower and creditor Governments;

5. *Reiterates* that no single indicator should be used to make definitive judgements about a country's debt sustainability, and in this regard, while acknowledging the need to use transparent and comparable indicators, invites the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in their assessment of debt sustainability, to continue to take into account a country's structural weaknesses and the fundamental changes caused by, inter alia, natural disasters, conflicts and changes in global growth prospects or in the terms of trade, especially for commodity-dependent developing countries, as well as by the impact of developments on financial markets, and to provide information on this issue to Member States, using the appropriate frameworks;

6. *Recognizes* that the long-term sustainability of debt depends on, inter alia, economic growth, mobilization of domestic and international resources, export prospects of debtor countries, responsible debt management, sound macroeconomic policies, transparent and effective regulatory frameworks and success in overcoming structural development problems, and hence on the creation of an enabling international environment that is conducive to development;

7. *Also recognizes* the enormity and the multidimensional nature of the world financial and economic crisis, which caused a sharp deterioration of the debt ratios in several developing countries, stresses the need to continue to assist developing countries in avoiding a build-up of unsustainable debt so as to reduce the risk of relapsing into another debt crisis, takes note in this regard of the additional resources made available during and since the crisis through the International Monetary Fund and the multilateral development banks, and calls for the continued provision of concessional and grant-based financing to low-income countries to enable them to respond to the consequences of the crisis;

8. *Further recognizes* the roles of the United Nations and the international financial institutions in accordance with their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue to support global efforts towards sustained, inclusive and equitable

[10] A/67/174.

growth, sustainable development and the external debt sustainability of developing countries, including through continued monitoring of global financial flows and their implications in this regard;

9. *Emphasizes* the need for coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, recalls, in this regard, the improvement of the lending framework of the International Monetary Fund through, inter alia, streamlined conditions and the creation of more flexible instruments, such as a precautionary and liquidity line, while noting that new and ongoing programmes should not contain unwarranted procyclical conditionalities, and urges the multilateral development banks to continue to move forward on flexible, concessional, fast disbursing and front-loaded assistance that will substantially and quickly assist developing countries facing financing gaps in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, taking into consideration the individual absorptive capacities and debt sustainability of those countries;

10. *Notes* the provision by the International Monetary Fund of interest relief to low-income countries in the form of zero-interest payments on financing from concessional lending facilities until the end of 2012, and invites the Fund to consider extending its concessional loan facilities for low-income countries for the post-2012 period;

11. *Also notes* that countries can seek to negotiate, as a last resort, on a case-by-case basis and through existing frameworks, agreements on temporary debt standstills between debtors and creditors in order to help mitigate the adverse impacts of the crisis and stabilize macroeconomic developments;

12. *Further notes* the progress made under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, while expressing concern that some countries have yet to reach decision or completion points, calls for the full and timely implementation of those Initiatives and for continued support to the remaining eligible countries in completing the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative process, and encourages all parties, both creditors and debtors, to fulfil their commitments as rapidly as possible in order to complete the debt relief process;

13. *Welcomes and encourages* the efforts of the heavily indebted poor countries, calls upon them to continue to strengthen their domestic policies to promote economic growth and poverty eradication through, inter alia, the maintenance of a domestic environment that is conducive to private-sector development, a stable macroeconomic framework and transparent and accountable systems of public finance, and invites the international financing institutions and the donor community to continue to provide adequate and sufficiently concessional financing;

14. *Encourages* the international financial institutions to review the implementation and the impact of debt relief initiatives to better understand why some countries still face persisting debt problems after completion of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, and calls for creditors and debtors to work together, inter alia, through the design of responses to address them;

15. *Underlines* the fact that heavily indebted poor countries eligible for debt relief will not be able to enjoy its full benefits unless all creditors, both public and private, contribute their fair share and become involved in the international debt

resolution mechanisms to ensure the debt sustainability of those countries, and invites creditors, both private and public, that are not yet fully participating in debt relief initiatives to substantially increase their participation, including through providing comparable treatment to the extent possible to debtor countries that have concluded sustainable debt relief agreements with creditors;

16. *Stresses* that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, economic development and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard urges countries to direct the resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards achieving those objectives, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, according to their national priorities and strategies;

17. *Encourages* donor countries to take steps to ensure that resources provided for debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative do not detract from official development assistance resources intended to be available for developing countries;

18. *Notes with concern* that some low- and middle-income developing countries that are not part of the existing debt relief initiatives may have large debt burdens that may create constraints on mobilizing the resources needed to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, indicating a need to consider debt relief initiatives for those countries, as appropriate, and encourages the consideration of medium- and long-term sustainability as well as new approaches to deal with bilateral and private non-Paris Club debt;

19. *Encourages* the Paris Club, in dealing with the debt of low- and middle-income debtor countries that are not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, to take into account their medium-term debt sustainability in addition to their financing gaps, and notes with appreciation the Evian approach of the Paris Club in providing different terms of debt relief in order to respond to the specific needs of debtor countries while preserving debt cancellation for heavily indebted poor countries;

20. *Stresses* the need for the international community to remain vigilant in monitoring the debt situation of the least developed countries and to continue to take effective measures, preferably within existing frameworks, when applicable, to address the debt problem of those countries, including through the cancellation of the multilateral and bilateral debt owed by least developed countries to creditors, both public and private;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts of, and calls upon, the international community to continue to provide flexibility, and stresses the need to sustain those efforts in helping post-conflict developing countries, especially those that are heavily indebted and poor, to achieve initial reconstruction for economic and social development;

22. *Also welcomes* the efforts of, and invites, creditors to provide flexibility to developing countries affected by natural disasters so as to allow them to address their debt concerns, while taking into account their specific situations and needs;

23. *Calls for* the consideration of additional measures and initiatives aimed at ensuring long-term debt sustainability through increased grant-based and other forms of concessional financing, the cancellation of 100 per cent of the eligible official multilateral and bilateral debt of heavily indebted poor countries and, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, significant debt relief or restructuring for developing countries with an unsustainable debt burden that are not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative;

24. *Invites* donor countries, taking into account country-specific debt sustainability analyses, to continue their efforts to increase bilateral grants to developing countries, which could contribute to debt sustainability in the medium to long term, and recognizes the need for countries to be able to promote employment and productive investment and to invest in, inter alia, health and education while maintaining debt sustainability;

25. *Calls for* the intensification of efforts to prevent and mitigate the prevalence and cost of debt crises by enhancing international financial mechanisms for crisis prevention and resolution, encourages the private sector to cooperate in this regard, and invites creditors and debtors to further explore, where appropriate and on a mutually agreed, transparent and case-by-case basis, the use of new and improved debt instruments and innovative mechanisms such as debt swaps, including debt for equity in Millennium Development Goal projects, as well as debt indexation instruments;

26. *Also calls for* the consideration of enhanced approaches to sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms, based on existing frameworks and principles, with the broad participation of creditors and debtors, the comparable treatment of all creditors and an important role for the Bretton Woods institutions and other relevant organizations within the United Nations system, and in this regard calls upon all countries to promote and contribute to the discussions, within the United Nations and other appropriate forums, on the need for and feasibility of a more structured framework for international cooperation in this area;

27. *Encourages* all relevant entities within the United Nations system to continue the study and examination of the need for and feasibility of a sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanism, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders;

28. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to hold a one-day meeting in 2013, in conjunction with its special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to consider lessons learned from debt crises and the ongoing work on sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, and also invites the President of the Economic and Social Council to prepare a summary of the meeting;

29. *Notes* the changing composition of the sovereign debt of some countries, which has shifted increasingly from official to commercial borrowing and from external to domestic public debt, although for most low-income countries external finance is still largely official, also notes that the levels of domestic debt and the significantly increased number of creditors, both official and private, could create other challenges for macroeconomic management and public debt sustainability, and

stresses the need to address the implications of these changes, including through improved data collection and analysis;

30. *Recognizes* concerns about vulture fund litigation and that some debtor countries may experience difficulties in obtaining comparable treatment from non-Paris Club creditors, as required by the standard clause included in Paris Club agreements, and encourages the continued provision by the relevant institutions of mechanisms and legal assistance to debtor countries to solve litigation issues;

31. *Stresses* the need to increase information-sharing, transparency and the use of objective criteria in the construction and evaluation of debt scenarios, including an assessment of domestic public and private debt, in order to ensure the achievement of development goals, recognizes that credit-rating agencies play a significant role in the provision of information, including the assessment of corporate and sovereign risks, reiterates in this regard the invitation addressed to the President of the General Assembly to convene a thematic debate on the role of credit-rating agencies in the international financial system, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to report on this issue when preparing his report on the implementation of the present resolution;

32. *Invites* the international community to continue efforts to increase support, including financial and technical assistance, for institutional capacity-building in developing countries to enhance sustainable debt management as an integral part of national development strategies, including by promoting transparent and accountable debt management systems and negotiation and renegotiation capacities and through supporting legal advice in relation to tackling external debt litigation and debt data reconciliation between creditors and debtors so that debt sustainability may be achieved and maintained;

33. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in cooperation with the regional commissions, regional development banks and other relevant multilateral financial institutions and stakeholders, to continue and intensify cooperation in respect of capacity-building activities in developing countries in the area of debt management and debt sustainability;

34. *Encourages* further improvement of the mutual exchange of information, on a voluntary basis, on borrowing and lending among all creditors and borrowers;

35. *Acknowledges* that timely and comprehensive data on the level and composition of debt are a condition necessary for, inter alia, building early warning systems aimed at limiting the impact of debt crises, calls for debtor and creditor countries to intensify their efforts to collect data, and calls for donors to consider increasing their support for technical cooperation programmes aimed at increasing the statistical capacity of developing countries in that regard;

36. *Calls upon* all Member States and the United Nations system, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions and the private sector, to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular those related to the question of the external debt sustainability of developing countries;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to

include in the report a comprehensive and substantive analysis of the external debt situation of developing countries, as well as the summary of the one-day meeting organized by the Economic and Social Council as an annex;

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "External debt sustainability and development".

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Sixty-seventh session
Second Committee
Agenda item 25 (b)
Operational activities for development:
South-South cooperation

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Modest Jonathan Mero (United Republic of Tanzania), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.8

South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, in which it endorsed the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,

Recalling its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/212 of 22 December 2005, 62/209 of 19 December 2007, 63/233 of 19 December 2008, 64/1 of 6 October 2009, 64/221 of 21 December 2009, 66/219 of 22 December 2011 and other resolutions relating to South-South cooperation,

Also recalling the 2005 World Summit outcome,[1]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation;[2]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the seventeenth session[3] of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and welcomes the decisions adopted;[4]

3. *Encourages* the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other entities of the United Nations system to take concrete measures to effectively mainstream support to South-South and triangular cooperation in their policy and regular programming work, and in this context requests those organizations and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to leverage each other's institutional and technical capacities;

[1] Resolution 60/1.
[2] A/67/208.
[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/67/39).
[4] Ibid., chap. I.

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4. *Calls upon* the United Nations regional commissions to play a catalytic role in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation and in strengthening their technical, policy and research support for countries of their regions;

5. *Recognizes* the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute in support of such cooperation through, inter alia, the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, and in this context encourages the Office for South-South Cooperation to undertake additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more financial and in-kind resources, while avoiding the proliferation and fragmentation of financing arrangements, and calls upon donors and Member States in a position to do so to strengthen their support for South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, especially by mobilizing financial resources on a sustainable basis and by providing technical assistance;

6. *Decides* to hold the eighteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation from 19 to 22 May 2014, to be preceded by an organizational meeting on 5 May 2014 to elect the President and the Bureau of the eighteenth session of the High-level Committee;

7. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Operational activities for development", the sub-item entitled "South-South cooperation", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it, before the beginning of the session, a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation.

United Nations A/C.2/67/L.58

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Sixty-seventh session
Second Committee
Agenda item 20 (f)
Sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Ms. Aida Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.27

Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 64/203 of 21 December 2009, 65/161 of 20 December 2010 and 66/202 of 22 December 2011 and previous resolutions relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

Recalling also the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992,[2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want"[6] and the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[7]

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] Resolution 65/1.

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Reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[8] and its principles,

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[9]

Recalling also that the objectives of the Convention, to be pursued in accordance with its relevant provisions, are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

Reaffirming the intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being,

Recognizing that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity is crucial for sustainable development, poverty eradication and the improvement of human well-being and a major factor underpinning the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, States have the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction,

Recalling that in its resolution 65/161, the General Assembly declared the decade 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,[10]

Recognizing that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities make an important contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and that their wider application can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods,

Taking note of the annex to decision XI/14 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eleventh meeting,[11] in which the parties, noting the recommendations contained in paragraphs 26 and 27 of the report on the tenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,[12] requested the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8 (j)

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[10] See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/2.

[11] UNEP/CBD/COP/11/35.

[12] E/2011/43-E/C.19/2011/14 and Corr.1.

and Related Provisions, taking into account submissions by parties, other Governments, relevant stakeholders and indigenous and local communities, to consider this matter and all its implications for the Convention on Biological Diversity and its parties, at its next meeting, for further consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting,

Noting the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[13] and acknowledging the role of access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization in contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, poverty eradication and environmental sustainability and thereby to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting also that one hundred and ninety-two States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Convention and that one hundred and sixty-three States and one regional economic integration organization are parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[14]

Noting further that ninety-one States and one regional economic integration organization have signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Recalling the adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention,[15] as well as decisions X/3 and XI/4 adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth[16] and eleventh[11] meetings on the review of its implementation, including the establishment of preliminary targets,

Expressing deep appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, from 8 to 19 October 2012, and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, from 1 to 5 October 2012, both held in Hyderabad, and welcoming the decision by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting to endorse the offer of the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, all due to be held in the second half of 2014,

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[13] UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex, decision X/1.

[14] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

[15] UNEP/CBD/COP/9/29, decision IX/11.

[16] UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, decision X/3.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[17]

2. *Notes with appreciation* the recent appointment of the new Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and expresses its support for his tenure;

3. *Reaffirms* the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want"[6] and, inter alia, the commitments concerning biodiversity;

4. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;[11]

5. *Recognizes* that parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] have reiterated that financial, human and technical resources need to be mobilized from all sources and that this should be balanced with the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,[10] stresses the need for further consideration of the evaluation of all resources mobilized in terms of the biodiversity outcomes achieved, and in this regard welcomes decision XI/4, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its eleventh meeting,[11] on an overall substantial increase of total biodiversity-related funding for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 from a variety of sources, including domestic and international resource mobilization, international cooperation and the exploration of new and innovative financial mechanisms;

6. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by parties to the Convention and relevant stakeholders that aim to effectively implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, expresses appreciation for the contribution made by the Government of India at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties through the Hyderabad Pledge, which aims to strengthen institutional mechanisms and enhance technical and human capabilities and includes earmarked funds to promote similar capacity-building in developing countries, and encourages parties in a position to do so to undertake similar initiatives;

7. *Encourages* Governments and all stakeholders, in line with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to take measures that aim to share, in a fair and equitable way, the results of the research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources on mutually agreed terms;

8. *Recognizes* the role indigenous and local communities can have in the stewardship and sustainable management of natural renewable resources, and the possible role of market- and non-market-based approaches in the management of those resources;

9. *Calls upon* parties and all stakeholders to incorporate, within their national strategies and action plans, measures to respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and

[17] A/67/295, sect. III.

encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

10. *Stresses* the importance of private-sector engagement for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in achieving biodiversity targets, and invites businesses to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the objectives of the Convention, including through partnerships;

11. *Recognizes* that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity can significantly contribute to disaster risk reduction and to reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, including by adding resilience to fragile ecosystems and making them less vulnerable;

12. *Encourages* parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to take concrete measures towards achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,[12] requests parties, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to coherently and efficiently implement their obligations and commitments under the Convention, and in this regard emphasizes the need to comprehensively address at all levels the difficulties that impede the full implementation of the Convention;

13. *Urges* the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions, and in this regard takes note of the strategy for the practical implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation developed by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Technology Transfer and Scientific and Technological Cooperation and of decision XI/2 on a review of progress in the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to parties adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting;[11]

14. *Calls upon* Governments and all stakeholders to take appropriate measures to mainstream consideration of the socioeconomic impacts and benefits of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its components, as well as of ecosystems that provide essential services, into relevant programmes and policies at all levels, in accordance with national legislation, circumstances and priorities;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of continuing to pursue more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, calls upon parties and stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation measures for the fulfilment of obligations contained in the Convention, including through addressing implementation gaps, particularly with regard to article 15 of the Convention;

16. *Notes* the ongoing work of the Joint Liaison Group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ("the Rio conventions") and of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, acknowledges the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of those conventions, recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related

conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives, and encourages the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of those instruments;

17. *Reaffirms* the importance of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets[10] adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

18. *Notes* the efforts to mainstream the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the contribution of the United Nations system to support the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and invites the United Nations system to continue facilitating cooperation among its members in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan;

19. *Invites* countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

20. *Invites* parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to ratify or accede to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, so as to ensure its early entry into force and its implementation, and furthermore requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to continue supporting capacity-building and development activities to support the ratification, early entry into force and implementation of the Protocol, and in this regard notes the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund within the Global Environment Facility, aimed at supporting concrete capacity development projects for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;

21. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and its potential benefit to Governments, invites an early commencement of its work, in order to provide the best available policy-relevant information on biodiversity to assist decision makers, and encourages Member States who have not yet done so to become members of the Platform;

22. *Decides* to devote one of the special events of the Second Committee during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, as part of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and to further efforts to improve coherence, to a joint briefing by the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Intellectual Property Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the secretariat of the Convention and the relevant United Nations bodies on the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including actions undertaken to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization and associated traditional knowledge, and to include an executive summary of the event in the note by the Secretary-General on the implementation of

United Nations environmental conventions[18] to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, before the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

23. *Encourages* parties and all stakeholders, institutions and organizations concerned to consider the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development;

24. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the advancement of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including on difficulties encountered in the process of their implementation;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

[18] Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports submitted by the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

United Nations A/C.2/67/L.59

General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Second Committee
Agenda item 21
Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Ms. Aida Hodžić (Bosnia and Herzegovina), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.22

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976,[1] and of the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996,[2]

Recalling also relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as well as relevant decisions and resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,

Reaffirming the outcome document, entitled "The future we want", of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,[3]

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[1] *Report of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Vancouver, 31 May-11 June 1976* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.76.IV.7 and corrigendum), chap. II.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6).

[3] Resolution 66/288, annex.

Please recycle

Recognizing the progress made in meeting and even surpassing Millennium Development Goal 7, target 11, while noting that slums continue to be a global challenge,

Acknowledging that, while significant progress has been made in implementing the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements[4] and the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda,[5] challenges remain, such as the continuing increase of slum dwellers in the world, the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements and the need to reduce disaster risks and build resilience to disasters in urban settlements,

Cognizant of the fact that these challenges may hinder the work towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers, and achieving a safe and healthy living environment for all,

Recognizing that cities are engines of economic growth and that, if they are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, they can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies,

Recalling paragraphs 134 to 137 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", on sustainable cities and human settlements,

Noting the ongoing review of the governance structure of UN-Habitat, which aims to improve its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness,

Recognizing that the World Urban Forum is the foremost global arena for interaction among policymakers, local government leaders, non-government stakeholders and expert practitioners in the field of human settlements, and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Italy and the city of Naples for hosting the sixth session of the Forum from 1 to 7 September 2012,

Recalling its resolutions 64/207 of 21 December 2009, 65/165 of 20 December 2010, and 66/207 of 22 December 2011, which addressed the convening in 2016 of a follow-up conference to Habitat II,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[6] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);[7]

2. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring consistency and coherence in the deliberations of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council on agenda items related to the work of UN-Habitat;

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[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Ibid., annex II.

[6] See A/67/316.

[7] A/67/263.

4. *Reaffirms* its decision to convene in 2016 a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), welcomes the offer of the Government of Turkey to host the conference in Istanbul in 2016, and invites participation in the conference at the highest possible level;

5. *Welcomes* the appointment of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat by the Secretary-General to serve as Secretary-General of the conference and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system;

6. *Decides* that:

(a) The objective of the conference will be to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assess accomplishments to date, address poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges, and the focus of the conference will include, but not be limited to, the theme "Sustainable urban development: the future of urbanization", to be discussed and refined during the preparatory process;

(b) The conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document, which shall reinvigorate the global commitment to and support for housing and sustainable urban development and the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda";

(c) The conference and its preparatory process should take into account and build upon the principles and gains achieved through the implementation of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[8] Agenda 21,[9] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[10] the Habitat Agenda,[3] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[11] and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[12] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[13] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[14] as well as the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;[4]

7. *Also decides* to establish a Preparatory Committee to carry out the preparations for the conference;

8. *Further decides* that the conference and its Preparatory Committee shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

9. *Decides*, while remaining mindful of the need to carry out the conference and the preparatory process in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, that:

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[11] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[12] Resolution 55/2.

[13] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[14] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

(a) The Preparatory Committee will meet three times before the opening of the conference;

(b) The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in New York, for a period of two days, during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

(c) The second meeting of the Preparatory Committee will be held in Nairobi in 2015, for a period of three days, taking full advantage of the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat;

(d) The venue and duration of the third and final Preparatory Committee meeting will be considered by the General Assembly no later than at its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014;

(e) The Preparatory Committee, when considering the rules of procedure of the Committee and the provisional rules of procedure of the conference, will take into consideration the rules of procedure of Habitat II endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/100 of 2 February 1996 and the established practice of the General Assembly;

10. *Also decides* to consider the final dates, format and organizational aspects of the conference no later than at its sixty-ninth session, before the end of 2014;

11. *Encourages* effective contributions from and the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, major groups as identified in Agenda 21, the relevant United Nations funds and programmes, the regional commissions and specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and other Habitat Agenda partners, at all stages of the preparatory process and at the conference itself, and requests the Secretary-General of the conference to make proposals to the Preparatory Committee on the improved participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the preparatory process and the conference itself, building on the positive experience of the rules and procedures of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and the inclusive engagement modalities of Habitat II;

12. *Also encourages* stakeholders gathered at the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, as well as at the regular ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings, to provide inputs and to contribute as appropriate to the process leading to the conference;

13. *Decides* to establish a trust fund for the conference, and in this regard:

(a) *Urges* international and bilateral donors as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors in a position to do so to support the preparations for the conference through voluntary contributions to the trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries to the Preparatory Committee meetings and to the conference itself;

(b) *Invites* voluntary contributions to support the participation of Habitat Agenda partners to the Preparatory Committee meetings;

(c) *Requests* the Secretary-General of the conference, when using the resources of the trust fund, to prioritize the coverage of economy class air tickets,

daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses, and to report on the use of the trust fund to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fifth session;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the conference to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal for consideration by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-fourth session as to how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner, and to proceed accordingly;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to provide, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, all appropriate support to the Secretary-General of the conference and to the work of the preparatory process and the conference, while promoting to the maximum possible extent inter-agency support;

16. *Takes note* with appreciation of the completion of the organizational review undertaken by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat;

17. *Invites* the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to present to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, as appropriate, the outcomes of the governance review process for consideration by the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, and encourages the Executive Director, together with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to continue their efforts in order to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of UN-Habitat;

18. *Welcomes* the progress in the elaboration of the strategic plan for the period 2014-2019 and its focus areas;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including an update on progress made in the preparations for the conference;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-eighth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN- Habitat)".

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General Assembly

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Sixty-seventh session
Second Committee
Agenda item 18 (a)
Macroeconomic policy questions: international trade and development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Mr. Stefano Stefanile (Italy), on the basis of informal consultations on draft resolution A/C.2/67/L.23

International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/178 of 21 December 2001, 57/235 of 20 December 2002, 58/197 of 23 December 2003, 63/203 of 19 December 2008 and 66/185 of 22 December 2011 on international trade and development,

Noting its resolutions 59/221 of 22 December 2004, 60/184 of 22 December 2005, 61/186 of 20 December 2006, 62/184 of 19 December 2007, 64/188 of 21 December 2009 and 65/142 of 20 December 2010 on international trade and development,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] as well as the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development[2] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3] the 2005 World Summit Outcome[4] and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[5]

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] Resolution 63/239, annex.

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Recalling also the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development and its outcome document,[6]

Recalling further the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[7]

Recalling the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and its outcome documents,[8]

Recalling also the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Doha, and its outcome documents,[9]

Recalling further the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and its outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[10]

Reaffirming the value of multilateralism to the global trading system and the commitment to achieving a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that contributes to growth, sustainable development and employment generation in all sectors, and emphasizing that bilateral and regional trading arrangements should contribute and be complementary to the goals of the multilateral trading system,

Reiterating that development concerns form an integral part of the Doha Development Agenda, which places the needs and interests of all developing countries, especially least developed countries, at the heart of the Doha Work Programme,[11]

Reaffirming that agriculture remains a fundamental and key sector for developing countries and noting the importance of working towards eliminating all forms of protectionism and the commitments to comprehensive negotiations aimed at substantial improvement in market access, substantial reduction in trade-distorting domestic support and the parallel elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect as provided in the mandate from the Doha Work Programme of the World Trade Organization, the framework adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization of August 2004[12] and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration,[13]

Recalling the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries,[14]

Recognizing the importance of competition policy and legislation in order to enhance the international competitiveness of developing countries,

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[6] Resolution 63/303, annex.

[7] See resolution 65/1.

[8] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chaps. I and II.

[9] See TD/500 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2.

[10] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[11] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[12] World Trade Organization, document WT/L/579.

[13] World Trade Organization, document WT/MIN(05)/DEC.

[14] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh, on 15 April 1994* (GATT Secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

Expressing deep concern about the ongoing adverse impacts, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis, cognizant that the global economy remains in a challenging phase with significant downside risks, including the turbulence in global financial and commodity markets and widespread fiscal strains, that threaten the global economic recovery, and stressing the need to continue to address systemic fragilities and imbalances and the need for continuing efforts to reform and strengthen the international financial system,

Noting that while some developing countries have been the main contributors to recent global economic growth, the economic crisis has reduced their capacity to withstand further shocks, recalling the commitments made to support strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and reaffirming the need to work cooperatively to meet development commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Trade and Development Board[15] and the report of the Secretary-General;[16]

2. *Reaffirms* that international trade is an engine for development and sustained economic growth, and also reaffirms the critical role that a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefiting all countries at all stages of development;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to resist protectionist tendencies and to rectify any trade-distorting measures that are inconsistent with World Trade Organization rules, recognizing the right of countries, in particular developing countries, to fully utilize flexibilities consistent with their World Trade Organization commitments and obligations;

4. *Expresses serious concern* at the lack of progress in the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, reiterates the call for the necessary flexibility and political will in order to break the current impasse in the negotiations, and in this regard calls for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and development-oriented outcome of the Doha Development Agenda multilateral trade negotiations, in keeping with the development mandate of the Doha Ministerial Declaration,[11] the decision of 1 August 2004 of the General Council of the World Trade Organization[12] and the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration adopted by the World Trade Organization in 2005;[13]

5. *Recognizes* the importance of the decisions of the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Geneva in December 2011, including the decision to allow members of the World Trade Organization to provide preferential treatment to services and suppliers from the least developed countries;[17]

6. *Acknowledges* that trade has an important role in ensuring the sustainable economic development of least developed countries and that the international trade architecture should continue to be supportive of and responsive to the special needs and priorities of least developed countries;

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[15] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh session, Supplement No. 15* (A/67/15), parts I, II, III and V.

[16] A/67/184.

[17] World Trade Organization, document WT/L/847.

7. *Welcomes* the convening of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, in Bali, Indonesia, to be held in the first week of December 2013;

8. *Reaffirms* the commitments made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization relating to the least developed countries,[11] and encourages developed countries and developing countries, declaring themselves in a position to do so, to take steps towards the goal of realizing the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration;

9. *Emphasizes* the full, timely and effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020;[8]

10. *Reaffirms* the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries,[14] including by providing technical and financial assistance to such countries to improve their agricultural productivity and infrastructure;

11. *Stresses* the need to remove food export restrictions and extraordinary taxes on food purchased for non-commercial, humanitarian purposes by the World Food Programme and to not impose them in the future;

12. *Also stresses* the need to increase investment from all sources in agriculture and rural development, including through the provision of technical and financial assistance, as appropriate, to least developed and net food-importing developing countries, with a view to increasing their agricultural productivity and infrastructure;

13. *Recognizes* the particular challenges that may be faced by small, vulnerable economies to fully benefit from the multilateral trading system in a manner commensurate with their special circumstances, and in this regard encourages progress in the implementation of the World Trade Organization work programme on small economies, as mandated in the 2001 Doha Ministerial Declaration and the 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, which supports their efforts towards sustainable development;

14. *Stresses* the need to identify and develop strategies to expand trade opportunities for women producers and facilitate the active participation of women in national, regional and global trade decision-making structures and processes, thereby ensuring that women- and men-owned businesses and farms have equal opportunities in markets;

15. *Reaffirms* the commitment to address the special development needs of and the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, and calls for the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit

Developing Countries,[18] in accordance with the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action;[19]

16. *Expresses concern* about the adoption of unilateral actions that are not consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, harm the exports of all countries, in particular those of developing countries, and have a considerable bearing on the ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations and on the achievement and further enhancement of the development dimension of the trade negotiations;

17. *Notes* the holding in Geneva on 18 and 19 July 2011 of the Third Global Review of Aid for Trade, aimed at reviewing progress achieved and identifying additional measures needed to support developing and least developed countries in building their supply and export capacities, and stresses the need to implement the aid-for-trade commitments with sufficient focus on results and impact;

18. *Recognizes* that South-South trade should be strengthened, notes that enhanced market access between developing countries can play a positive role in stimulating South-South trade, and in this regard, inter alia, takes note of the conclusion of the third round of the Global System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries, by the adoption, on 15 December 2010, of the São Paulo Round Protocol;[20]

19. *Reiterates* the important role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations system for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development, invites the Conference to continue working to enhance its contribution in its three major pillars, namely, consensus-building, research and policy analysis, and technical assistance, and calls upon the international community to work towards the strengthening of the Conference;

20. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue, in accordance with its mandate, to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and of trends in international trade from a development perspective, and in particular to analyse issues of concern to developing countries, placing greater emphasis on practical solutions, to undertake policy analysis, including from a gender perspective, to work with all relevant stakeholders and to support developing countries in building productive national capacities and international competitiveness, including through technical assistance activities;

21. *Welcomes* the convening and recalls the outcome of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,[9] held in Doha from 21 to 26 April 2012, on the theme "Development-centred globalization: Towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development";

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[18] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

[19] See resolution 63/2.

[20] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, document SPR/NC/FOZ/3.

22. *Recognizes* the role of the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and developments in the multilateral trading system, including their impact on women and men, under the sub-item entitled "International trade and development" of the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions";

24. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the Director General of the World Trade Organization.